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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/541,651	03/09/2006	Thomas Corbett	ARD128USA	3443

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EXAMINER

BERRY, WILLIE WENDELL JR

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3643

DATE MAILED: 10/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/541,651

Applicant(s)

CORBETT, THOMAS

Examiner

Willie W. Berry, Jr.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 July 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "cover" of claim 1 and "fixing pin" of claim 4 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New

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Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 10 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 10 does not further limit the previous claim 2 because applicant claims the subject matter of claim 2 in claim 10, which is " the bracket."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by patent no. 4,837,990 to Peleg.

In regard to claim 1, Peleg discloses a polytunnel system comprising a plurality of cover support members (4), a series of leg members (2) and a cover (6), the cover support members being supported by associated leg members, wherein the cover

support members are securable to the leg members at a plurality of different heights (col. 3, lines 30-36).

In regard to claim 2, Peleg discloses a system according to Claim 1, wherein each leg member carries a bracket (10 and 12) which, in turn, carries the associated cover support member, the bracket being securable to the leg member in a range of positions.

In regard to claim 3, Peleg discloses a system according to Claim 2, wherein each bracket (10 and 12) defines a passage through which the associated leg member (2) extends (not numbered, but shown in fig. 2).

In regard to claim 4, Peleg discloses a system according to Claim 3, wherein the bracket defines an opening (not numbered, but shown in fig. 2) and the associated leg member is provided with a series of openings (not numbered, but shown in fig. 2), a fixing pin being locatable within the opening of the bracket and selected one of the openings of the leg member to secure the bracket in a selected position (col. 3, lines 30-36).

In regard to claim 5, Peleg discloses a system according to claim 1, wherein each bracket includes at least one arm (10) onto or over which part of an associated cover support member can be located.

In regard to claim 7, a system according to claim 1, wherein the ends of the cover support members extend generally vertically (not numbered, but shown in fig. 3).

In regard to claim 10, a bracket (10 and 12) adapted for use in a system according to claim 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peleg in view of patent no. 4,651,466 to Robinson.

Peleg discloses as discussed above.

Peleg does not disclose a bracket having a socket used for receiving a cover support member.

Robinson teaches it is known to have a bracket (40) having a socket (45 and 50) used for receiving a cover support member in a garden bed frame.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Peleg to include the teachings of Robinson for the purpose of substituting one bracket used for supporting a cover support member for another.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peleg in view of patent no. 3,162,920 to Durham.

Peleg discloses as discussed above.

Peleg does not disclose a rope anchorage point.

Durham teaches it is known to have a rope anchorage point (28) in a removable grommet attachment structure for sheet covers.

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Peleg to include the teachings of Durham for the purpose of providing a means of securing a covering as stated by Durham in col. 1, lines 25-30.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Willie W. Berry, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-8974. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am to 5:30pm Mon. - Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on (571) 272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Wbj. *wbj.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter M. Poon", with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

PETER M. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER